

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, August 14, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.
Robert Emerson

Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman

Absent: L. Allen Messick, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Ashley Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: Michael Parkowski, Esq., and Terri Cooke representing Del DOT.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,171 farms in preservation districts totaling 163,530 acres, with a total of 754 farms under agricultural easements totaling 110,937 acres at a cost of \$198,857,237. For PDR 18, there are a total of 107 farms, comprising 10,164 acres, with a value of \$59,747,386. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 14 Young Farmers program loans which have settled, with an easement value of \$5,083,918. For the third Young Farmers round there are eight farms being considered comprising 841 acres with an estimated value of \$2,450,000.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that when the Round 3 Young Farmers loans are settled there will be a total of 22 Young Farmers program loans. The first settlement in Young Farmers Round 3 will occur by the end of August.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that there were 330 Federal parcels visited in the January to March period, and 68 non-federal parcels have been visited to date.

IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. Webb Farm Expansion of the Howard R. Young & Sons, Inc. District, ID#S-13-05-189D. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Webb Farm Expansion of the Howard R. Young & Sons, Inc. District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**

1. Legacy Farms Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms, Inc. District, ID#S-13-07-182D. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Legacy Farms Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms, Inc. District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. George Walson Farm Expansion of the Collins District, ID#S-13-06-021H. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the George Walson Farm Expansion of the Collins District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. Adams Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, ID#S-13-07-016N. After discussion, **Robert Emerson moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Adams Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. McColley/Reed Farm Expansion of the McColley-Sharp District, ID#S-13-06-111F. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the McColley/Reed Farm Expansion of the McColley-Sharp District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Hunter Farm Expansion of the Moore-Abbott Farms District, ID#S-13-06-052. After discussion. **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Hunter Farm Expansion of the Moore-Abbott Farms District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Vanderwende-Melson Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms Inc. District, ID#S-13-06-182C. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Vanderwende-Melson Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms Inc. District, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.** Mr. William Vanderwende recused himself from voting due to conflict of interest.
4. Dysard Tree Farm Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, ID#K-13-06-120F. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Dysard Tree Farm Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Emerson asked about the qualifications of this Expansion. Mr. Melendez explained that a forester from the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service inspects the property to see if it qualifies as far as producing an income of at least on average \$1,000 per year. Such an inspection was done on this property and it qualified; and Mr. Parkowski explained that an all wooded parcel is allowed in the Farmland Preservation Program.

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

VII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the June 19, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the June minutes, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of June 30, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of June 30, 2013, \$ 36,757.99 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$6.14, Rollback Taxes \$52,417.85, and license plate monies received in June totaled \$455.00. Expenditures for the month of June totaled \$72,566.94. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the June financial statement as presented, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**

Howard Mesick then presented the Financial Statement for the month of July 31, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of July 31, 2013, \$10,891.77 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. The Foundation received \$20,000.00 to date in lieu of the State of Delaware grant. Once the grant totaling \$502,600 is received, this \$20,000.00 will be returned to the State. License plate monies received in July totaled \$560.00. Expenditures for the month of July totaled \$13,221.52. After discussion, **William Vanderwende**

moved to accept the July financial statement as presented, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.

X. Executive Session:

There was no need for an Executive Session.

XI. Young Farmers Round Four:

Mr. Austin Short explained the financial situation surrounding the Farmland Preservation Program and the Young Farmers Loan Program, including that many of the Round 17 settlements involving Federal funds have not yet occurred due to delays in the Federal appraisal reviews. Mr. Short recommended the Board approve \$1.2 million for the Young Farmers Loan Program Round 4, which is 20 percent of the \$6 million allocated for the Farmland Preservation Program (the Budget Act allows for up to 30 percent of Farmland Preservation Funds for the Young Farmer Program). After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to budget 20 percent of the Farmland Preservation funds for the Young Farmers Loan program, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

Austin Short requested the Board approve September 1st to November 30th as the loan application period for Round 4 of the Young Farmers Loan program. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to approve the time period of September 1, 2013 to November 30, 2013 to accept loan applications for the Young Farmers Loan Program Round 4, seconded by Ed Kee.**

Mr. Short made special mention of the help received from NRCS, especially that of Mr. Paul Petrichenko. Without Mr. Petrichenko's continued help we may have gone the way of many other state agencies and not been able to utilize Federal funds for our farmland preservation program.

Robin West suggested we hold workshops for Delaware farmers concerning our Young Farmer Program. Ms. West states there is quite a need to educate the agricultural community about this program.

XII. Other Business:

1. Somy Expansion of the Miller District, ID#K-01-01-005B. DelDOT right-of-way/permanent easement.

Ms. Terri Cooke was in attendance representing DelDOT. Mr. Milton Melendez and Michael Parkowski, Esq. presented the request, including a one page information sheet. A permanent easement is involved on .3782 acres, the agreement between the owners (Irene Somy and Donald Krause) and DelDOT has been reviewed and is approved by the Foundation attorney. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the DelDOT right-of-way/permanent easement on the Somy Expansion of the Miller District, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Wilson Farm

Mr. Blaier mentioned to the Board that our Foundation property, the Wilson Farm, will have a temporary DelDOT construction easement to allow the placement of sidewalks. Construction will occur so as to minimize the impact on farming operations and the Foundation will receive \$1,950. Mr. Blaier will discuss this easement with our tenant, the Magee family.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on September 18, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman